

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of November 21, 2003, wherein the Examiner allowed claims 7 and 9-11, rejected claims 1, 5 and 12, and objected to claims 4 and 13. Claims 2, 3, 6, 8 and 14 are withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected species. Applicant requests reconsideration of the withdrawal of claim 6.

The Examiner first withdrew claims 2, 3, 8 and 14 from consideration as been drawn to a nonelected species. The Examiner next withdrew claim 6 from further consideration as been drawn to a non-elected species regarding the language "activator comprises a speed selector and a separate direction selector." Applicant submits that claim 6 reads on the elected species embodiment of figure 11, with the speed control actuator 420 and direction switches 424, 428.

The Examiner next objected to the information disclosure statement filed on February 15, 2002 for failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a) (1). The objection is not understood as the complete information disclosure statement, including the 1449 form with the list of references, was in fact mailed in the information disclosure statement submission of February 15, 2002. A copy of this information disclosure statement is attached along with a copy of the itemized postcard from the USPTO.

The Examiner next objected to figure 15 for being of insufficient quality to facilitate understanding of the invention. Applicant herewith submits formal drawings which should overcome this objection.

The Examiner next objected to claim 12 for an antecedent basis problem. Claim 12 has been amended above which should overcome this objection.

The Examiner next rejected claim under 135 USC §112 for indefiniteness. Applicant has corrected claim 1 above which should overcome this rejection.

The Examiner next rejected claim 1 under 35 USC §103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Wagner '337* in view of *Bates '242*.

The Examiner next rejected claim 1 and 5 under 35 USC §103(a) as they unpatentable over *Wagner '337* in view of *Duthie et al. '615*.

The Examiner next rejected claim 12 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over *Wagner '337* in view of *Duthie et al. '615*.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 12 to recite the additional feature of a ground speed sensor, wherein the ground speed sensor is used to create a feedback signal to maintain the desired ground speed irrespective of engine speed or transmission speed. None of the references *Wagner '337*, *Bates '242*, or *Duthie '615* disclose such a feature.

The Examiner next indicated the allowability of claim 4 if rewritten to overcome the 35 USC §112 rejection, and if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has compiled with these instructions and as such claim should now be allowable.

The Examiner next indicated the allowance of claims 7 and 9-11. Applicant acknowledges this allowance with appreciation.

The Examiner next indicated that claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any

intervening claims. Applicant has complied with these instructions and as such claim 13 should be allowable.

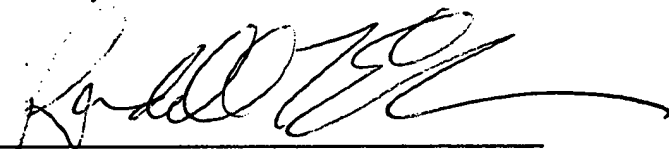
Applicant has added new dependent claims 15-22 that also should be allowed.

Applicant submits that all claims should now be in condition for allowance.

Applicant submits that withdrawn claims 2, 3, 6 and 14 should be allowed as being dependent on allowable generic claims 1 and 12.

Respectfully submitted,

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